

**Wivenhoe Urban District
Council.**

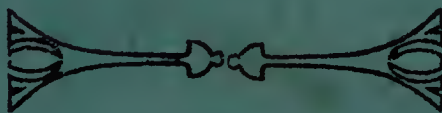


REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1920.



Colchester :

WILES AND SON, TRINITY PRINTING WORKS.

1921.

TO THE
Wivenhoe Urban District Council.

MR CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present you my report for the year 1920.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

The population by the census of 1911 was 2,376.

The estimated population for 1920 is 2,442, both for the birth-rate and for the death-rate.

The Wivenhoe Urban District comprises the village of Wivenhoe and part of the surrounding rural district to the North and East of it, until it meets the boundaries of the Borough of Colchester and the parishes of Ardleigh and Elmstead.

The village of Wivenhoe rises on a hill-side from the North bank of the river Colne to the table-land above, which is just under 100 feet above sea level. The more modern part is on the hill-top, and the houses now being built under the Housing Scheme are well situated still further northward.

The climate is remarkably mild and dry. The soil, generally, is gravel over London clay, which lies on a chalky bed.

The chief industry is centered in the Shipyard of the Rennie, Ritchie and Newport Shipbuilding Company, besides which is the Yacht and Boatbuilding Yard of the firm of Cox & King,

and also the similar but smaller yard of J. Husk & Son. Another growing industry is the Timber Yard of the firm of B. B. & M. Barrell, at Wivenhoe Cross.

Sea fishing in the estuary of the Thames is carried on by several vessels, but not to such an extent as formerly.

Several men are employed as Yachtsmen. The river Colne has long been famous for its Yachtsmen, especially in connection with Yacht Racing.

There are no industries that are inimical to Public Health.

The Vital Statistics (a table of which is appended), show a death-rate of 13·5 per 1,000. This is slightly above the rate (12·4) for England and Wales, but below our average (13·68) for the preceding ten years. The birth-rate, 20·8 per 1,000, is below the rate (25·4) for England and Wales, but well above our average (16·77) for the preceding ten years. The births (51) exceed the deaths (33) by 18.

The Infantile Mortality rate (for deaths under one year of age) is 98 per 1,000 births. Hospital treatment has been utilised to a considerable extent.

The number of persons receiving Poor Law out-relief was 12. The number receiving Medical relief was only 3.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water.—A sufficient, constant, and good supply is derived from the Council's Waterworks. The water is pumped from a well, over 100 feet deep in the chalk. There is no suspicion of any contamination of the supply.

Rivers and Streams. Wivenhoe, as before stated, is on the river Colne, which is a tidal river. A small running brook flows through the village and takes the drainage from a number of houses in the lower-lying part of the village. The surface water from the main roads drains into an open ditch which runs across the marshes, to the West of Wivenhoe, and empties into the river Colne. Owing to the absence of an appropriate fall, due to the low level of the marsh land, this ditch is sluggish. It was completely cleared of mud and weed during the year. One house has its drainage emptying into this ditch after passing through a septic tank.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The surface drains are sufficient. A small number of houses have water-closets emptying in the drains, and a few have water-closets emptying into dead-wells. The houses on the Quay drain into the river. When it becomes practicable, a complete system of sewerage should be instituted.

Closet Accommodation.—The majority of the houses in Wivenhoe and the Rural District have pail-closets. Some have privies or dead-wells. The number of pail closets is 462. Privies with covered middens 67. W.C's. with flushing cisterns 45 Without flushing cisterns (rural cottages) 11. The number of privies has been reduced by three during the year.

Scavenging.—This is carried out by contractors. The pail closets and dustbins are emptied twice weekly. The refuse is disposed of to farmers and carted to their land. The old fixed dustbins have almost all been replaced by covered metal bins. The privies and dead wells are emptied as frequently as they can be dealt with.

Sanitary Inspection of District.—The Sanitary Inspector made 210 inspections and found 17 houses with defects, including defective floors, roofs, guttering and plastering, and also closets and gully traps out of order and blocked drains, rendering them unfit for habitation. On the service of Informal Notices these defects were remedied. On complaints of nuisances 21 inspections were made. The nuisances have abated without the necessity of Statutory Notices or summonses.

Sanitary Administration.—The staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector, who is also the Surveyor and Housing Inspector.

Schools.

The Schools are inspected by the Medical Officer. They are modern, well ventilated, and in good sanitary condition and have a good water supply.

There are no lodging houses and no underground sleeping rooms.

There are no offensive trades.

Food.

Milk Supply.—This is derived from farms in the neighbourhood. There is an ample supply and the quality of the milk is invariably good. Under the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919, the Council arranged that it should be provided on application in necessitous cases.

Other Foods.—The Sanitary Inspector visits periodically the premises concerned in the manufacture and sale of foods and inspects also all foods exposed for sale.

Bakehouses.—There are 3 bakehouses which are each inspected once in every three months. They were found in good condition.

Slaughterhouses.—There is one slaughterhouse, which was inspected 12 times and found in good condition.

Housing.

The total number of houses is 663. Of these, 644 are working-class houses.

Of the 50 houses arranged for in the Housing Scheme 16 are in course of erection.

Several of the houses in the lower part of Wivenhoe, near the river, are unrepairable and should be gradually eliminated as new ones get built. Those which could be made habitable by minor repairs have already been dealt with (*vide* "Sanitary Inspection of District.").

Infectious Diseases.

An epidemic of Measles started in the middle of January and lasted for two months. As measles is no longer a notifiable disease the number of cases was unobtainable. There was no mortality from this disease.

Immediately after the Measles epidemic an epidemic of Influenza of a mild type broke out and lasted till the end of April. This caused no mortality.

Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1920.

Birth-rate per 1,000, total population.	Annual Death-rate per 1,000, Population.									Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.			
	All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
208	13.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.4	39.2	98	6	97	3	—

For the second year in succession there were no cases of Diphtheria. A supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin is always available, but none was requisitioned.

There were no cases of Eucephalitis Lethargica and only one of Pneumonia. There were no fresh cases of Malaria, Dysentery, or Trench Fever.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was very slight.

The County Council provides free Bacteriological examinations. This was taken advantage of. A few swabs taken from suspected throats were sent, but with negative results in all cases. The sputum of several cases was examined for Tubercle bacilli. A standing arrangement exists with the Borough of Colchester for admission of cases of infectious disease to their Fever Hospital. There is no local Hospital.

SUMMARY OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Influenza.—Mild epidemic; no deaths.

Scarlet Fever.—Two cases. Sufficiently isolated at their homes. No deaths.

Diphtheria.—No cases.

Poliomyelitis.—One case; fatal termination.

Tuberculosis.—Four pulmonary cases with one death. One non-pulmonary case, fatal.

Pneumonia.—One case; no death.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—One case; recovery complete.

Erysipelas.—No cases.

Measles.—Moderate epidemic; no deaths.

Small Pox.—No cases.

Puerperal Fever.—No cases.

Dysentery.—No cases.

Trench Fever.—No cases.

Malaria.—No cases.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Council are taking no action pending the coming into operation of the County Scheme.

Adoptive Acts and Bye-Laws.

The following Acts have been adopted and apply to the whole area :

<i>Acts.</i>	<i>Date of Adoption.</i>
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890...	26th May, 1898
" " (Notification) Act, 1889	
(As to Acute Poliomyelitis and Cerebro-	
Spinal Fever) ...	10th June, 1912
Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890 ...	23rd June, 1898

Bye-Laws.

Cleansing of Footways, Privies, etc., and the removal of House Refuse ...	19th Nov., 1900
Removal of Refuse by Public Authority ...	" "
Nuisances, etc. ...	" "
Slaughterhouses ...	" "
New Streets and Buildings ...	28th April, 1899

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. TRAVERS KEVERN,

Medical Officer of Health.

April, 1921.



